1   **CLAIMS**

2

3   1.   A control module comprising:

4   a motherboard bus connector for communication

5   with a motherboard;

6   a motherboard bus to serial port bridge module;

7   at least one serial port connector; and

8   a processor module.

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10 2.   The control module of Claim 1 adapted to provide at

11   least one peripheral control port for said

12   motherboard.

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14 3.   The control module of any previous Claim wherein the

15   processor module comprises a monitoring means for

16   monitoring the state of said motherboard.

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18 4.   The control module of Claim 3 wherein the monitoring

19   means further monitors the state of software running

20   on said motherboard.

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22 5.   The control module of any previous Claim wherein the

23   processor module has a battery power supply separate

24   from the PC power supply.

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26 6.   The control module of any previous Claim wherein the

27   processor module further comprises a power supply

28   monitoring means for monitoring the state of a power

29   supply supplying said motherboard.

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31 7.   A system comprising a motherboard and the control

32   module of any previous Claim.

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1   8.   The system of Claim 7 further comprising a socket
2   server means for providing event handlers for at
3   least one serial port corresponding to said at least
4   one serial port connector and operating
5   substantially in between the application layer and
6   the operating system layer of the software executing
7   on the motherboard.
8

9   9.   The system of Claim 7 further comprising a socket
10   server means for providing event handlers for said
11   at least one peripheral control port and operating
12   substantially in between the application layer and
13   the operating system layer of the software executing
14   on the motherboard.
15

16 10.   The system of any previous Claim further comprising
17   a battery, a power supply and a battery management
18   circuit wherein an electrical connection between
19   said battery and said power supply is diverted
20   through said battery management circuit and said
21   battery management circuit is controlled by said
22   processor module.